

Application No.: 10/743,720

Docket No.: 2038-319

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) In a body fluid absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid-pervious sheet;
 - a liquid-impervious sheet;
 - a body fluid absorbent core interposed therebetween;
 - an indicator interposed between said liquid-impervious sheet and said core and comprising a water-absorbent sheet which allows said core in a wet state to be visually perceived from outside said liquid-impervious sheet and indication elements temporarily concealed by said water-absorbent sheet;
 - said water-absorbent sheet comprising a porous thermoplastic film having an inner surface facing said core and an outer surface facing said liquid-impervious sheet;
 - said film having a total luminous transmittance of 40 % or lower in a dry state and 60 % or higher in a wet state; and
 - said indication elements being held in close contact with said inner surface.
2. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film exhibits a Klemm's water-absorbency in a range of 1 to 10 mm.
3. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film contains 20 to 80 wt% of inorganic particles each having a particle diameter in a range of 0.1 to 10 μ .
4. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film contains 0.5 to 5 wt% of modifier for hydrophilicity.

Application No.: 10/743,720Docket No.: 2038-319

5. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 4, wherein said inorganic particles are coated with at least a part of said modifier for hydrophilicity.

6. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film is obtained by extruding thermoplastic containing said inorganic particles to form a starting film and then monoaxially or biaxially stretching said starting film at a ratio of 100 to 300 %.

7. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said indication elements comprise layers of print ink or other coating materials intermittently formed on an inner surface of said water-absorbent sheet.

8. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said indication elements is defined by said core itself.

9. (Original) The indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film has a water-absorption in a range of 5 to 100 wt%.

10. (new) The indicator according to claim 1, further comprising:

inorganic particles present on at least one of the inner and outer surfaces of said thermoplastic film and making said at least one of the inner and outer surfaces a rough, light scattering surface; and

apertures extending through said thermoplastic film and adapted to be filled with bodily fluid for smoothening the rough, light scattering surface and thus increasing the total luminous transmittance of said thermoplastic film.

11. (new) The indicator according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic film further contains a hydrophilic modifier for retaining bodily fluid in said apertures and thus increasing water-absorption capability of said thermoplastic film.

Application No.: 10/743,720Docket No.: 2038-319

12. (new) A body fluid absorbent article, comprising:

- a liquid-pervious topsheet;
- a liquid-impervious backsheet;
- a body fluid absorbent core interposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet; and
- a water-absorbent, porous, thermoplastic film interposed between said liquid-impervious backsheet and said core;
- said thermoplastic film being attached to said backsheet by adhesive;
- said thermoplastic film having a total luminous transmittance of 40% or lower in a dry state, thereby concealing a portion of said core in the dry state,
- said thermoplastic film having the total luminous transmittance of 60% or higher in a wet state, thereby allowing said portion of said core to be visible from outside said liquid-impervious backsheet in the wet state.

13. (new) The article according to claim 12, wherein said thermoplastic film having an inner surface facing and bonded to said core by adhesive, and an outer surface facing and bonded to said liquid-impervious backsheet by adhesive, said thermoplastic film further comprising:

- inorganic particles present on at least one of the inner and outer surfaces of said thermoplastic film and making said at least one of the inner and outer surfaces a rough, light scattering surface; and
- apertures extending through said thermoplastic film and adapted to be filled with bodily fluid for smoothening the rough, light scattering surface and thus increasing the total luminous transmittance of said thermoplastic film.

14. (new) The article according to claim 13, wherein said thermoplastic film further contains a hydrophilic modifier for retaining bodily fluid in said apertures and thus increasing water-absorption capability of said thermoplastic film.

Application No.: 10/743,720Docket No.: 2038-319

15. (new) The article according to claim 12, wherein said thermoplastic film has an area smaller than that of said core.

16. (new) The article according to claim 12, further comprising an ink pattern disposed between said portion of said core and the inner surface of said thermoplastic sheet;

 said ink pattern having a color distinguishable from those of said thermoplastic film and said backsheet;

 said ink pattern being concealed by said thermoplastic film in the dry state and becoming visible when said thermoplastic film is in the wet state.

17. (new) The article according to claim 12, wherein the entire inner surface of said thermoplastic film is in direct contact with said core.

18. (new) An indicator for use in a body fluid absorbent article comprising a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet, a body fluid absorbent core interposed between the backsheet and topsheet, said indicator being adapted to be interposed between said backsheet and said core and comprising a water-absorbent, porous, thermoplastic film;

 said thermoplastic film having a total luminous transmittance of 40% or lower in a dry state for concealing a portion of said core in the dry state;

 said thermoplastic film having the total luminous transmittance of 60% or higher in a wet state for allowing said portion of said core to be visible from outside said liquid-impervious backsheet in the wet state;

 said thermoplastic film having an inner surface adapted to face said core, and an outer surface adapted to face said liquid-impervious backsheet;

 said thermoplastic film further comprising:

Application No.: 10/743,720Docket No.: 2038-319

inorganic particles present on at least one of the inner and outer surfaces of said thermoplastic film and making said at least one of the inner and outer surfaces a rough, light scattering surface; and

apertures extending through said thermoplastic film and adapted to be filled with bodily fluid for smoothening the rough, light scattering surface and thus increasing the total luminous transmittance of said thermoplastic film.

19. (new) The indicator according to claim 18, wherein said thermoplastic film further contains a hydrophilic modifier for retaining bodily fluid in said apertures and thus increasing water-absorption capability of said thermoplastic film.

20. (new) The indicator according to claim 19, consisting of said thermoplastic film.